

508 SMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
EEFOEMEB

when she was subsequently questioned; she
could remember
nothing more.

At eight o'clock in the morning the two workmen
who were
making repairs in the house arrived, and
Madame Monnier,
the doorkeeper, set them on some quiet little
jobs in order
that her employers might not be disturbed.

They, the Zolas,
usually rose between eight and nine, but that
morning time
went by and they gave no sign of life. About
nine o'clock

Madame Moimier's husband, one of the two
men-servants,
knocked repeatedly at the bedroom door but
obtained no
answer. He and his wife then became
alarmed, and with
the help of one of the workmen burst the door
open. To

their horror and amazement they saw Zola lying
in his night-
gown on the floor, his feet just touching the rug
beside the

bed, One of the party at once opened a
window, while

Madame Monnier went to the bed where her
mistress was

lying unconscious. There was a second
bedstead in the

room, a small iron one, and to this some of
the servants

carried their master's body, then hurried in
search of a

doctor, The first to arrive was Dr. Marc
Berman, a practi-

tioner of liussian origin, who happened to be in
a chemist's

shop in, the vicinity. He at once examined
Zola and found

no signs of life, though the body was still
warm. Death

had occurred little more than an hour
previously, in all

likelihood shortly after eight o'clock.

Turning to Madame

Zola, the doctor found her in an extremely weak state, but

some hope of saving her remained, and indeed at the expi-

ration of some twenty minutes the efforts to revive her to

consciousness began to take effect, though they had to be

continued for fully another hour.

Dr. Berman had sent to the chemist's for oxygen, ether,